



Astronaut teaches sky is no longer the limit

Story and photos by
Sgt. DAMIAN MCGEE
PRESS CHIEF

"The sky is the limit!" This is a sentiment that many grew up being told by teachers and parents alike.

However, in our world of space travel, moon landings and Mars inquiries, is this still the case?

Well, according to Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr. (United States Marine Corps, Ret.), who visited the Albany area Feb. 18, the only absolute true limit is that placed on

a person is usually by his or herself.

Bolden, a former NASA Astronaut and Marine, spoke to elementary school children as well as students of Darton College about the importance of taking calculated risks and having the determination to drive through at all costs.

"Some would consider it to be a standard message of mine," Bolden said of his speech. "I do change it some according to my audience, but the overall message is that there

are things in life we must take risks with. There are also things that are not worth the risk."

Bolden's message was easily accepted once he spoke of his own experiences. As a man who'd flown four missions into space, Bolden readily admitted he never imagined he would or could accomplish the things he has.

"Being an African-American male from South Carolina, space travel was not a part of my reality," Bolden said.

The limits placed on African Americans during Bolden's early years drove him to many of the desires young children of all races still have to day: doctor, lawyer, fireman, etc.

"If I based my success off the things I set out to do as a child, I would be considered a failure," Bolden explained with an award winning grin. "None of the things I've accomplished had I set out to accomplish, but I wouldn't change any of it."

As Gen. Bolden moved through his military career and his life in general, he realized a lot of things and those same things he passed on to the students who had come to

see him and listen to his message.

"Every person controls his or her own destiny," Bolden explained to the eager students. "Nothing will come easily, and you must be proactive, but there's nothing you can't do."

Although Bolden's speeches came during the celebration of Black History Month, the timing was merely coincidental.

"The best part about what he said was that it was universal," said Shantia Covin, a second-year Darton student.

"Although it's black history month, his message is for any and everyone," he also said.

In all, Bolden gave all those in attendance a new outlook on things and a positive mindset to go forward with and accomplish great things.

"He's made me think about my own desire to go out and achieve my goals," said Kenneth Taylor, a second-year Darton student. "After hearing him speak I now know there's nothing wrong with striving for great things and dreams that seem unattainable because even if a person doesn't reach their originally intended goal great things can



Three classes of students from Darton College joined to hear Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Bolden speak.



Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Bolden travels around the country speaking to children and young adults about life's choices.

Albany Dougherty Day showcases MCLB Albany, Marines

Story and photos by
CPL. DENYELLE D. D'AVETA
EMBLEM STAFF

ATLANTA, Ga.— Marines and civilians from Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany

recently participated in this year's Albany Dougherty Day.

This event is held annually in order to give state representatives and other government officials a chance to see just

what the city of Albany has to offer.

The theme of this year's gathering was "All Roads Lead to Albany."

The event also gives the Albany community an opportunity to voice their issues to empowered politicians.

"This day provides Albany with the opportunity to tell their story," said Lieutenant Governor Mark Taylor. "It gives them the chance to convince state leaders why their projects need our support."

Part of Albany Dougherty Day also included a dinner attended by both the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor.

Mr. Ken Trammell, deputy commander, Marine Corps Logistics Command, also participated in the dinner, during which he was able to update those in attendance on recent MCLB Albany efforts to "harden" vehicles headed for Iraq.

The base is presently assisting in designing and providing "hardening kits" that consists of steel that is cut, bent, and hung on vehicles to add protection against small arms fire and explosions.

"This project is a perfect example of the relevance of MCLB Albany," said Trammell. "One of our strengths is that we are able to react immediately to meet changing customer priorities."

Other employees from MCLB, to include Col. Joseph R. Wingard, MCLB Albany's commanding officer,

and representatives from Logistics Command's Marketing office manned an information booth at the Atlanta Train Depot, to showcase what the base has to offer the state of Georgia, and as a reminder of how much the base contributes to the community.

Information about the base was offered to attendees through a display and video that shows work done by the Albany Maintenance Center.

In fiscal year 2003 it was noted that MCLB employed more than 2,000 civilians and also maintained approximately 700 Marines with over 1100 military dependents to accrue a \$125.4 million payroll.

MCLB also provides services to 3,456 military retirees within the surrounding area which includes commissary services, some medical and dental services and several recreational opportunities.

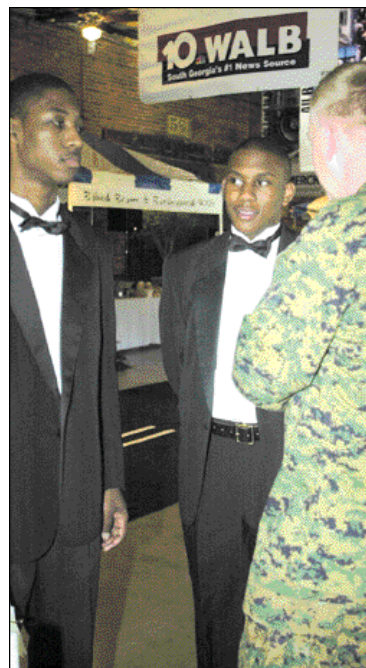
Some of the other business attendees from Albany included Albany State University, Darton College, Chehaw Park, and Proctor and Gamble.

"It's important for MCLB Albany to educate state leaders on our operation: an efficient, flexible base providing a diverse range of logistics functions in support of the Marine Corps and the Department of Defense" Wingard said.

"This event was a good opportunity to do just that," Col. Wingard went on to point



Clint Murphy, animal handler, for the Parks at Chehaw, shows off one of the many "critters" featured at the Parks at Chehaw in Albany.



Christopher Robinson (left) and Gabriel Powell, Dougherty High School seniors, speak with Col. Joseph R. Wingard, commanding officer, MCLB Albany, about being a Marine and what it takes during Albany Dougherty Day held in Atlanta, Feb. 18.

Children take on challenge

Story and photos by
CPL. DENYELLE D. D'AVETA
EMBLEM STAFF

Forty-one children from the Albany area began taking on the challenges of becoming a Young Marine here Feb. 21.

The day began at 7:30 a.m. and would not end until 24 hours later.

The first part of the morning was spent reviewing knowledge, participating in physical activity and explanations of what would be expected of them as a recruit throughout the program. The recruits also recited took an oath to set an example for all other youth to follow. See Albany Page 12



Cpl. Darrell Stewart, drill instructor, reviews the newest platoon.

Inside...

Basketball in review;
Time for playoffs.
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Black History Month concludes with ceremony.
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Motivated Marine sets example.
Pg. 6



TONY RAWLS

OIF operations discussed during PME

A panel of officers who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom wait to answer questions at a PME for Officers, SNCO's and GS-13 & GS-15's from MCLB Albany. The topic of the PME is Logistics Operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The panelists included Brig. Gen. Edward Usher III, Colonels Juan Ayala, John Wissler, Pete Taleri and Dan Lee.

A Few Good Words



LCDR ROGER RICHARDS
COMMANDING OFFICER

'Sea stories'

From time to time, I have the opportunity to sit around with some "Old Salts" and tell sea stories. These are often amusing and occasionally true stories from earlier on in our careers. One person will tell a story and it will remind another of another story and before you know it, a couple of hours have passed and we have had a very enjoyable and entertaining time.

Normally the purpose of telling sea stories is to simply remember the past and share a common bond. Historically, they would be told to amaze and impress landlubbers and entertain them with our wild exploits and adventures. But ideally, these should be told in the company of the younger members of the military. In doing this, we don't just sit around "spinning yarns," but in a sense, we are passing on to them a part of our history, and thus, a part of their heritage.

It is important to continue to recount to our younger people the things from our past so that they will have a greater appreciation of who they are and from whence they came. If they have a clear understanding of past events, they can more readily appreciate the present situation. But also, in sharing ourselves with them, we bring them into our family of trust. We are telling them in essence, "You are one of us, now. Here is a part of me. Treasure it."

The telling of our stories goes back as far as man himself. Contrary to popular opinion, the meaning of the word history is not a contraction of the words his story, although it is easy to understand why many would think that. Rather, it is from the Greek word, *historia*, which means "learned man." It gives credibility to the old saying that those who fail to learn from the past are destined to repeat it. And if we are going to learn from the past, we have to tell our stories of where we have been and what we have done.

It makes me feel good when I hear young people tell the stories of what happened to someone in their family in generations past. It gives me comfort to know that the individual is well grounded in their own history and heritage. In fact, the reason we celebrate the various cultural celebrations throughout the year to encourage us to continue to hold on to our past while living in the present. In doing so, we can more effectively shape our future.

The Bible is more than just a recount of our past as Jewish or Christian people. It is intended to show us, not just where we came from, but through redemption, what can become of us, as well as warn us of coming judgment. It is important to study our Bibles so that we can have a clearer understanding of what brought us where we are and allow us to focus on where, with God's help, where we are going.

Tell your story to those around you. Share yourself and share what God is doing in your life with those around you. In doing so, you can bring others in to your family.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in church on Sunday.

COMMAND RELIGIOUS PROGRAM WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sunday School 9 a.m.
Divine Services 10:30 a.m.

For more information, call the Base Chapel at
639-5282. For emergencies, call the
Officer of the Day at 639-5206.

Crossroads Restaurant Menu

Today	Broccoli
Soup of the Day	Lima beans
Express Lunch	Rolls & butter
Lasagna w/meat	Salad bar
Spaghetti w/meat sauce	
& Alfredo sauce	
Italian green beans	
Garlic bread	
Salad bar	
Tuesday	
Soup of the Day	
Express Lunch	
Chicken vege w/rice	
Sliced roast beef w/gravy	
Mashed potatoes	
Green bean casserole	
Honey glazed carrots	
Rolls & butter	
Salad bar	
Wednesday	
Soup of the Day	
Express Lunch	
Spaghetti w/meat sauce	
Herb baked chicken	
Mashed potatoes	
Fried okra	
Green peas w/mushrooms	
Rolls & butter	
Salad bar	
Monday	
Soup of the Day	
Express Lunch	
Pepper steak	
Country fried steak	
Steamed rice	

Lunch Buffet & Lunch Buffet Takeout — \$5.95
Soup & Salad and Soup & Salad Takeout — \$3.95
(add dessert \$4.95)
Express Lunch — \$3.95

Hours of Operation — Mon. - Fri., 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

BRAC 2005 concept explained

COMPILED BY
SPECIAL STUDIES OFFICE

Over the past year, so many cries of BRAC have been heard so many times that many of us have been left confused, skeptical, or just plain numb.

The military and civilian employees aboard MCLB Albany, MCLB Barstow, Blount Island Command, and in the Logistics Command Headquarters (LOGCOM) are coping with organizational change, force reconstitution, force and logistical transformation, competitive outsourcing, and a myriad of daily fleet support issues. Meeting the needs of the Marines in the field is the focus and mission that keeps everyone busy, but the impact of our BRAC is on everyone's mind.

There is No Closure List Yet
Rumor and gossip, and hence closure lists abound. Seldom does a week go by without another editorial naming specific installations for closure. Emails perpetuate the misinformation and "editorials" become "fact." It is a case of so much information and so little truth.

There is no closure list and there won't be until after May 2005 (OSD List).

A History of Pain
BRACs are nothing new. There was a BRAC in 1988, 1993, and 1995. Many of us within the Command have vivid memories of the 1993 BRAC when Albany and Barstow, were retained by the Secretary of Defense but were put on the list by the BRAC Commission itself. Some of us also experienced the not-so-fun building of massive responses to extensive data calls in support of BRAC information gathering used for decision-making.

Same, but different: BRAC 2005.

So, if BRACs are not new, and we survived the 1988, 1993,

and 1995, why worry about BRAC 2005?

BRAC 2005 is not the BRAC of the past. It is an extensive capabilities study designed to align military infrastructure with the future force structure of the armed forces in a joint environment for the 21st Century. Designed to eliminate excess capacity while enhancing cross-service support, BRAC will allow DoD to transform the way we do business and to support the future force structure both financially and logistically.

Data Calls, data calls, and more data calls.

In order to acquire the information needed for decision-making, the Office of Secretary of Defense sends out Data Calls requesting specific information to each and every military installation. The Data Calls are designed to enhance and supplement the known information on a base or function. No installation is exempt, regardless of its mission. Data Calls ask many questions, but an example of the type of questions asked include: missions we perform, the infrastructure available to support those missions, why missions have to be performed where they are and, most importantly, our ability to expand existing missions or take on new ones.

It is essential that within LOGCOM, we not only define what we do to support the Marine Corps internally, but also how we have partnered with civilian industry to take advantage of the vast resources of the private sector, and how we assist our sister services in accomplishing their support missions.

Do We Really Need to do it Again?

BRACs have generated savings of approximately \$5.6 billion per year, yet reductions in base infrastructure still lag behind force structure reductions by as much as 25%. Previous

BRACs have been Service-centric, allowing for significant management by the individual Services and, as a result, reflected very little interest in joint use of facilities which could have reduced infrastructure. Retaining excess capacity drains funds needed for facility maintenance, equipment maintenance, and DoD transformation.

Are We Prepared?

The Commanding General's guidance is to submit clear, concise, timely, and defensible responses to data call questions. Also, that internal LOGCOM procedures developed to respond to BRAC 2005 would allow, to the greatest degree possible, minimal disruption in the Command's ability to continue satisfying its numerous missions on a day-to-day basis.

LOGCOM established a BRAC Steering Committee comprised of Commanders and senior managers to provide oversight of the entire LOGCOM BRAC process. The Special Studies Office was established as a temporary structure within LOGCOM and serves as the Commanding General's and Steering Committee's technical advisor for BRAC, a liaison to Headquarters Marine Corps, an information conduit for subordinate command BRAC offices, and a support to all identified BRAC points of contact within the Command.

The Future of Logistics Command and its Subordinate Commands.

Although considerable more jointness may be on the agenda for the Marine Corps, the Corps is already organized, trained, and fights in the expeditionary environment that will be reflective of our military's future force structure. Our logistic support concepts and organizations also support the expeditionary nature of our Corps and our sister services. LOGCOM and all of its subordi-

nate commands have similar inherent strengths. All perform missions that are expeditionary-oriented and vital to the future needs of the Marine Corps, all are capable of expanding geographically and taking on expanded or new missions. None have encroachment problems or significant environmental problems that would preclude that growth.

Key Dates:

The entire process is expected to take approximately twenty-four months to complete. Key dates in the process mandated by Congress are:

— December 23, 2003 - The Secretary of Defense published interim criteria.

— January 6, 2004 - Release of First Data Call

— February 12, 2004 - The Secretary of Defense published final Selection Criteria

— March 15, 2005 - BRAC Commissioners appointed

— May 16, 2005 - Secretary of Defense sends his recommended closure/realignment list to the Commission

— September 8, 2005 - Commission sends recommendations to the President (all or none approval)

— November 7, 2005 - Deadline for President to submit recommendations to Congress (all or none approval)

How 2005 Differs From 1995 and Previous BRACs

The 2005 BRAC is different in both scope and level of complexity. The primary criterion of this BRAC round is military value. What infrastructure is required to support the military's future force structure? To support this effort, OSD has been tasked to provide force structure projections for the next twenty years versus previous six-year projections.

In previous BRACs, the Services formed their own study **See BRAC — Page 12**

Leave donations requests for employee emergencies

The Annual Leave Transfer Program may be used by employees to request to become annual leave recipients if they or a member of their family suffers a medical emergency. To donate annual leave submit an Optical Form 630-A.

• **Carl Simpson**, an employee of Fleet Support Division, needs leave donations for surgery. Call Cheryl Honeck at 639-5835.

• **Daniel A. Wentzell Jr.**, an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations for illness. Call Veronica Ferreros at 639-5379 for further details.

• **Edgar Cole**, an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations for surgery. Call Brenda Brandt at 639-6308.

• **Gerald Wells**, an employee of the Supply Chain Management Center, needs leave donations for an illness. Call Georgia Olson at 639-6534.

• **Beryl W. Brown**, an employee of Fleet Support Division, needs

leave donations for recuperation from auto accident. Call Sherrie Kuck at 639-5881.

• **Kimberly Vidal**, an employee of Logistics Operations, needs leave donations due to illness. Call Mack Prater at 639-5565.

• **Karel Giese**, an employee of the Business Performance Office, needs leave donations for illness. Call Karen Phillips at 639-7161.

• **Robert A. Dickerson**, an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations due to illness. Call Thomas Newton at 639-6348.

• **Tracy Jo Singletary**, an employee of SCMC, needs leave donations to care for family member. Call Zeldia M. Collier at 639-5748.

• **Ruth J. Bailey**, an employee of Installation and Logistics Division, needs leave donations for surgery. Call Diane McCall at 639-5652.

• **Dottie A. Tucker**, an employee

of SCMC, needs leave donations to care for family member. Call Jeanette Bell at 639-8213.

• **Jerome W. Vick**, an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations for surgery. Call Mack Prater at 639-5565.

• **Kenneth E. Shiver**, an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations to care for family member. Call Jimmy Shiver at 639-5375.

• **Frank Laster**, an employee of Fleet Support Division, needs leave donations for recuperation. Call Sherrie Kuck at 639-5881.

• **Sandra P. Ellerson**, an employee of the Resource Management Division, needs leave donations due to illness. Call Sandy Rickett at 639-7013.

• **Reid E. Merritt**, an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations to care for family member. Call Brenda Brandt at 639-6308.

• **Linda D. Scott**, an employee

of SCMC, needs leave donations for recuperation. Contact Mary Beth Parsons at 639-8200.

• **Cynthia A. Howard**, an employee of Marine Corps Systems Command, needs leave donations for recuperation from surgery. Call Ron Howard at 639-7355.

• **Glenda S. Lanier**, an employee of Fleet Support Division, needs leave donations for care of family member. Call Sherrie Kuck at 639-5881.

• **George R. Batchelder**, an employee of Risk Management Branch, needs leave donations for care of family member. Call Merrill Dickinson at 639-5249.

• **Nancy H. Bitwinick**, an employee of C-4, needs leave donations for recuperation from surgery. Call Valerie Byrd at 639-6661.

To become a leave recipient, an employee must submit a copy of Optional Form 630. For more information on the program, call 639-5228.

Base Theater Schedule

FRIDAY - MAR. 5

7 p.m. -- **Big Fish**, rated PG13 — Ewan McGregor, Albert Finney, Billy Crudup, Jessica Lange, Danny DeVito

SATURDAY - MAR. 6

7 p.m. -- **Along Came Polly**, rated PG13 — Ben Stiller, Jennifer Aniston, Debra Messing, Hank Azaria

WEDNESDAY - MAR. 10

7 p.m. -- **My Baby's Daddy**, rated PG13 — Eddie Griffin, Anthony Anderson, Joanna Bacaiso, Michael Imperioli

Free Admission

Hot Dog	\$.75	Large soda	\$1.00
Sausage	\$1.00	Small soda	\$.75
Nachos	\$1.00	Large popcorn	\$1.50
Candy	\$.50	Med. popcorn	\$1.00
Slim Jims	\$.75	Small popcorn	\$.75

Community Briefs

— ITT's Sixth Annual Travel and Recreation Trade Show will be Mar. 11, 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Thomason Gym. Admission is free and there are great door prizes. For more information, call 639-8177.

— The MCLB Albany Pistol Team is looking for three more sergeants-or-below to represent the base at a pistol match at CLNC. Individuals should be first time shooters. For more information, call 639-6134.

— The Child Development Center will offer 40 spaces in the 2004-2005 Georgia Lottery funded Pre-K pro-

gram. The program is open to 4-year olds of active duty military, retired military and DoD civilian employees. Children must be 4-years old on or before September 1, 2004.

Pre-K hours are 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. before and after school care is available. For more information, call Allison Fujimoto at 639-7930.

— The Albany Recreation and Parks Department is seeking proposals to provide a volunteer adult-run youth football and cheerleading program. Written proposals should be submitted by Mar. 8. Call 430-5222 for details.

The Emblem

Commander, Marine Corps Logistics Command.....Maj. Gen. Harold Mashburn Jr.
Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany.....Col. Joseph R. Wingard
Public Affairs Officer.....Capt. Steve Butler
Public Affairs Chief.....Gunnery Sgt. Marlon J. Martin
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Regular season ends, teams getting ready for playoffs

Week 1 Jan. 7

**SNCO - 78
C-4 - 53**

In week one, the SNCO's came out with a strong starting line up and showed everybody what they were made of with a 78-53 victory over C-4.

The SNCO's starting line up has players that have been playing for a long time. One of those players, Jimmy Wheeler, who averages 10 points per game, played on the All Marine Basketball team and even participated in the Armed Forces League in the World Military Games.



All around player, Martin Couch (left), STAP, shows off his defensive skills in addition to being his team's top scorer with 117 points during the regular season.

Week 1 Scores

SNCO over C-4 - 76-53
GME over HQBN - 49-43
Civilians over STAP - F - 2

Story and photos by
LANCE CPL. KEVIN J RIDLON
EMBLEM STAFF

The Marine Corps Logistics Base Intramural Basketball League's regular season has come to an end and the play-off tournament begins.

This year's eight week season has brought some spectacular games, plays and has brought together some of the best players the base has to offer.

Team Standings*

SNCO	6-1
GME	6-1
STAP	5-2
Civilians	4-3
C-4	3-4
HQBN	2-5
Enforcers	1-6
BAND	0-7

*Note: The above standings are prior to the playoffs

Week 2 Jan. 14

**STAP - 61
Drummers - 33**



Cornellious Martin, STAP, gets up for one of his attempts during the game against the Drummers.

In week 2, STAP gave the Drummers a run for their money as STAP came up big with a 28-point victory.

STAP took control of the game as they moved the ball around and took smart shots. They also stepped up their defense and did not allow the Drummers to get many shots off.

Couch combined with teammate Cornelius Martin, for 22-points.

The Drummers Alan Phillips tried to help his team by scoring 17 points; but it wasn't enough.

Week 2 Scores

Enforcers over Drummers - 49-23
C-4 over HQBN - 52-47
GME over SNCO - 62 - 43

Week 3 Jan. 21

**C-4 - 59
Enforcers - 52**



Adam Jurawich (left) hits the floor hard during a scramble for the ball during the match-up against the Enforcers.

The third week of the regular season started off slow, but came to an exciting end when C-4 went head-to-head with the Enforcers.

Throughout the game it was extremely close as C-4's Larry Grimes, led the team to a 59-52 victory, despite the efforts of the Enforcers top player, Jason McClaskey.

Week 3 Scores

Civilians over Enforcers - 56-38
HQBN over Drummers - 59-41
SNCO over Civilians - 61 - 58

Week 4 Jan. 28

**SNCO - 70
Drummers - 43**

Week 4 scores

GME over STAP - 71-60
Civilians over HQBN - 65-64
GME over Enforcers - 75-35

Week 4 was filled with very close games except the game on the 28th that was played between the SNCOs and the Drummers.

The SNCOs took over the court and didn't let up on the Drummers even for a minute.

The SNCOs, lead by high game scorer Bari Williams with 22-points, took a 27-point victory over the Drummers with a score of 70-43.



Albert Knight attempts to stretch out a layup as Jason Knuckles stays hot on his heels.

Week 5 Feb. 4

**STAP - 54
HQBN - 53**



Daryl Walker attempts to make a layup for the HQBN team.

The games became more interesting and closer as week five hit. At this point the Hawks and STAP were tied and battling it out for third place. Their game showed that both teams wanted the win badly.

The Hawks Willie Houser, and STAP's Martin Couch went head-to-head in an effort to give their teams the victory. In the end STAP came out with the one-point victory, 69-68, and the third place position.

Week 5 Scores

STAP over C-4
69-68
Civilians over C-4
67-58
STAP over HQBN
54-53

Week 6 Feb. 11

**GME - 63
C-4 - 44**



"Big man" and high scorer with 23 points, Larry Parker, puts up a hook shot from the paint.

Week six was a short week with only two games played, but was a very entertaining week. The Hawks went up against C-4 and seemed not to be energized enough to stop C-4.

The second half was a different story though. During the second half, the Hawks stepped up their defense and offense and almost completely shut down C-4.

At the end of the game the Hawks began to take advantage of their lead and players, such as, Willie Carr, began to attempt dunking the ball.

The Hawks came out with the 63-44 victory.

Week 6 Scores

STAP over Enforcers - 53-52

Week 7 Feb. 18

**SNCO - 47
HQBN - 35**

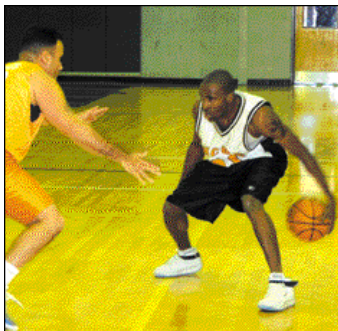
Week 7 Scores

Civilian over GME - 60-46

Just like in week one, the SNCO's came out strong in week seven to defeat HQBN 47-35.

In this game the SNCO's used HQBN's weaknesses against them, causing team star, Walker, to foul out of the game early in the second half.

The SNCO's used their plays and their heads to out play HQBN and to bring home the 12-point victory.



Daryl Walker of HQBN puts a move on SNCO defender Luis Torres in an attempt to get by him.

Week 8 Feb. 25

**Civilians - 82
Drummers - 61**

The last week of the regular season was played very hard by all teams, especially by the Drummers as they went up against the Civilian team.

Alan Phillips, of the Drummers, tried to lead the team into a victory but was stopped by DeMario McLemore and the rest of the Civilian team.

The Drummers lost control of game at the end of the second half and suffered an 82-61 loss.

Now that the regular season is finished the play off tournament has begun. The tournament is a double

Week 8 Scores

C-4 vs. Drummers
- C-4 F - 2
HQBN over
Enforcers - 66-32
SNCO over
Enforcers - 68-53

elimination tournament that started Monday and runs through today, with the championship game being played March 8.



Alan Phillips goes up for an easy lay-up as Jonathan Perrine stands behind him in case of a rebound.

MCLB celebrates National African-American History

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. KEVIN J. RIDLON

The Marine Corps Logistics Base celebrated National African-American History Month Feb. 26 at the Crossroads Restaurant banquet hall.

Tony Rawls, base photographer, with wife Pinkie Rawls put together this ceremony along with the support of Marine Corps Community Services.

According to President George W. Bush's proclamation, African Americans have strengthened our Nation by urging reforms, overcoming obstacles, and breaking down barriers.

They have also played central roles in some of the most triumphant and courageous moments in our Nation's history.

President Bush went on to say that during National African-American History Month, we honor the rich heritage of African Americans and pay tribute to their many contri-

butions and sacrifices to our Nation.

Their were many exhibits at the celebration, which included books on African-American History and write-ups on famous and important black leaders and historical figures.

Paintings from Pinkie Rawls were displayed along with photographs taken by Tony Rawls.

There was also entertainment and speakers present at the celebration.

The first presentation of the celebration was a performance by the New Life gospel singers of Albany, Ga. New Life performed three songs that got the audience moving and on their feet.

The second presentation was a poetry reading by Jackie Clark, forms manager, Base Adjutant's Office.

The next performance was by the MCLB Jazz Band. They played "Alabama" by John Coltrane.

Sgt. Jason Knuckles made the audience feel the music as he played his saxophone solos.

The last speaker was John Litman, Base Assistant Council.

Litman resited the "I have a dream" speech that was originally given by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. in 1963.

The closing performance of the celebration was a performance by the MCLB Gospel Choir.

The chorus, which is made up of eight people sang three songs to close out the event.



The Marine Corps Logistics Base Gospel Choir closes out the African American History celebration by performing three songs.



The audience is moved to a standing ovation after the performance of Albany's New Life Gospel Singers.



In books, art African-American heritage honored

(Left) Books on African American History and write-ups on famous and important historical figures where among many other exhibits on display at the celebration. (Right) A group of people stop to take a look at the artwork that was brought by Tony Rawls, base photographer, and his wife Pinkie Rawls.



Sgt. Jason Knuckles, Albany Marine Band, performs "Alabama" by John Coltrane as part of the Jazz band performance.



New Life gospel singers of Albany, Ga., perform three of their songs to the audience and get them moving in their seats.

Former Marines observe training



SGT. L.F. LANGSTON

(Right to left) Retired Marines Master Gunnery Sgt. Nathaniel R. Hosea, Master Sgt. Willie E. Marbrey, 1st Sgt. Barnett Person Sr. and 1st Sgt. Arthur J. Smith observe a recent graduation.

SGT. L. F. LANGSTON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MCRD SAN DIEGO, Calif.

—Several of the pioneering Marines who trained at Montford Point, N.C., in the 1940s visited the Depot Feb. 13 to attend a morning colors ceremony and Company D's graduation, followed by a visit to the command museum.

The Montford Point Marines blazed a trail into the Corps' future while at the same time marking their place in its history books as the first black Marines.

For decades the Marine Corps didn't accept African Americans. It wasn't until 1941 when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 8802 to establish the Fair Employment Practice Commission, banning discrimination "because of race, creed, color, or national origin" in all government agencies.

Among the retired Montford Point Marines visiting the Depot were Sgt. Maj. Augustus "Gus" Willis, Master Sgt. Willie E. Marbrey, Sgt. Maj. William "Movin" Vann, Master Gunnery Sgt. Nathaniel R. Hosea and 1st Sgt. Barnett Person Sr.

While the Montford Point Marines play an important role in black history, Willis said he likes to think of it as just Marine Corps history.

"To get a point across for history it doesn't have to be about race, creed, or religion," he said. Recruiting for the "Montford Marines" began June 1, 1942 and thousands of African-American men flocked to recruiting offices.

One of those men was Marbrey, who joined in 1945 and retired after 24 years of service. He expressed his satisfaction with his Marine Corps career.

"I had a beautiful career. The military is our family and the Marine Corps is our intimate family," Marbrey said.

Having close and personal family was one of the keys to Marbrey's honorable 24 years of service.

"I was astonished at the camaraderie at the camp, and that changed my attitude," Marbrey said.

Marbrey is not the only one who's success was aided by someone close to him. Vann said his wife, Evangeline, was a big part of his career.

"I have nine stars of good conduct. She helped me earn them," Vann said.

With the ills of segregation and the demands of the Marine Corps itself, Evangeline said she understood what it meant to be a Marine's wife.

"I was trying to help him be

where he wanted to be," said Evangeline. "It was rough in the Marine Corps, but it was also rough on the outside."

The early Montford Point Marines withstood a lot of the discontent and upheaval of a diverse military.

They paved the way for Marines such as Hosea.

Hosea served 29 years, excelling and taking advantage of the education and training the Corps offered.

However, he still experienced some of the discomforts of being a minority in a changing world.

"In my 29 years, I was never in a group of more than five black Marines and I was always the senior," Hosea said.

Hosea recalls how the Marines were accounted for every morning on a roster.

"1,200 total Marines, 10 officers, 2 colored. That's the way it was written on the master sheet at Signal School Battalion," Hosea said.

Approximately 30,000 black Marines are on active duty today and do not show up on morning rosters as colored, but as enlisted or officer.

The times of segregation and profound racism in the military are in the past, but not forgotten.

The men of Montford Point proved their worth and set the example.

The Montford Point Marine Association plans on keeping their illustrious Marine Corps history alive.

"We want to preserve the legacy of the Montford Point Marines and give the Marine Corps and civilian community history and information they're not aware of," Willis said.



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RIP Marine handles multiple tasks; outshines peers

CPL. ISAAC PACHECO
EMBLEM STAFF

His superiors call him motivated; his peers call him dedicated; and the kids he inspires call him "really awesome." He is Cpl. Maurice Allen, supply administration, and he's taking the term "Semper Paratus" to a whole new level.

Allen sets himself apart from his noncommissioned officer counterparts by not only working tirelessly at his job but by also faithfully sacrificing his off time to give back to the base's youth programs.

As a Marine working at the Repairable Issue Point, Allen sometimes works 13-hour days lifting heavy machine and electronic parts out of crates and rifling through stacks of gear receipts.

"Our shop gets damaged automotive gear, engines, transmissions, tracks, and just about any other piece of equipment you can

imagine from Iraq," Allen said. "We categorize the gear and ship it out to different units to be repaired and sent back overseas."

When he's not unloading trucks and prying open crates, the Leesburg, Florida native is typing up receipts and taking accountability for every piece of gear, some of which cost millions of dollars.

Allen was promoted to corporal Feb. 2nd, and according to the people he works with, the promotion was well deserved.

One Marine in his shop explained how Allen's extra level of initiative to get even the most demanding jobs done on time made him such an outstanding Marine.

"He works his tail off," said Cpl. Jose Irizarry, supply administration. "The first time he stepped foot in the shop he wasn't used to being on such a small base, but he just stepped up and adapted. If he sees a job that needs to be done, he

does it without being told. I can tell him to get something done and not have to worry because I know he'll do it even better than I asked for."

Excellence at work is only one aspect of Allen's dedication and character. While his fellow Marines are heading home for the day or to the gym, Allen is just getting started.

After normal working hours, Allen coaches youth basketball and works 6 days a week at the Teen Center located in Base Housing.

"We might get to work at 7 A.M., work hard unloading gear all day and not get off until 7 P.M.," Irizarry said. "(Allen) will still go, on his own time, after a hard day's work and coach basketball or study with kids at the Teen Center. He's just an honest guy who cares about what he's doing, and he has all these little kids looking up to him. I'm really proud of him."

Although he gets paid by

Marine Corps Community Services for his time at the Teen Center, Allen said the biggest rewards are the intangible ones.

"I've been working with kids and coaching since I graduated from high school in 2000," Allen said. "I enjoy seeing kids learn, and it's rewarding to see them smile when I help them figure things out."

Kids at the Youth Center hint that the reward goes both ways.

"He comes over here to see how we're doing and helps us with our homework," said Jasmin Ransom, Lincoln Elementary 5th grader. "I think he cares about the kids here, and I think he's really nice."

With every math problem he helps solve and for every free throw he coaches, Allen is living up to the motto "Semper Paratus" in a way that it deserves emulation. He's proving that doesn't take a big chevron to make a big difference, just a big heart.



CPL. ISAAC PACHECO

As Cpl. Maurice Allen races newly processed equipment to a designated warehouse destination, his tempo attests to the important role Albany's repairable issue point plays in fleet support.



CPL. ANDREW P. ROUFS

And, the winner is ...

The Albany Marine Corps Exchange awarded Jeremy Johnson, a \$500 Savings Bond. The award was part of a program sponsored by the Marine Corps Exchange that honors students for good grades and constant improvement in school. The program gives students an incentive to excel in school.

Marines provide police training

CPL. ADAM C. SCHNELL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

DIJIBOUTI CITY, Horn of Africa — Eyes and ears were wide open as a team of FBI bomb technicians taught Marines and students from the Djiboutian National Police Force about improvised explosive devices here Feb. 24. Twelve Marines from K Company, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, the force protection providers for Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, observed in U.S.-funded classes to teach Djiboutian Police to better identify explosive devices and the danger they can create.

The Marines were invited to the class because of their force protection role in searching vehicles before they pass through the gates of Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, where CJTF-HOA forces are stationed. Their job is to keep the base safe by inspecting vehicles for IEDs and other tools of terrorism.

"We see a lot of vehicles each day, and this type of training really helps us to not get complacent in our jobs," said Lance Cpl. Eddie Ryan, an infantryman whose daily duties are composed of searching vehicles as they reach the entry control point aboard Camp Lemonnier.

Ryan, an Ellenville, N.Y., native, also said they learned that IEDs can be made out of and look like anything. The knowledge he

and his fellow Marines received will help them to keep the base a little safer in the future.

Providing more knowledge about vehicle-borne IEDs and what can happen if they are deployed properly was Special Agent Eric Morefield, bomb technician for the FBI.

Morefield, along with three other team members from the bureau, built devices out of materials that are readily available to terrorists.

Morefield said he wanted to instill in all the students that IEDs can be made out of anything with a little explosives.

He also wanted to show the damage that can occur when IEDs are employed correctly.

"I think it really opened the Marines eyes to how easy it is for a terrorist to hide a vehicle-borne IED," said Marine Capt. Edward J. Healey, company commander.

The Worcester, Mass., native said even though the Marines have only been aboard Camp Lemonnier a few weeks, he wants to make sure they don't become complacent in their jobs.

"It really taught them what could happen if they don't do their jobs," Healey said. "In this case, complacency can kill."

The hours of training the Marines participated in was both a refresher and an eye-opener, but for students from the police academy here it was part of two-week course given to them.



CPL. ADAM C. SCHNELL

Special Agent Eric Morefield, bomb technician for the FBI, trains students about how high explosives can be made from practically anything.

1st FSSG off loads, maintains equipment for

STAFF SGT. BILL LISBON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait — This week, deployed Marines of the 1st Force Service Support Group have begun emptying ships around-the-clock here, amassing the tools they'll need for upcoming missions in Iraq.

Not feeling as rushed to off load gear as they were last year in preparation for Operation Iraqi Freedom, military officials are determined to keep close tabs that units are given exactly what they asked for.

During the planning for the Marines' return to Iraq, all units determined the amount of equipment they would need based on the missions they were expected to perform. Therefore, all the gear coming into Kuwait has a predetermined owner.

"There has been strict accountability of which goes to which unit," said Capt. Eric C. Malinowski, assistant operations officer for Brigade Service Support Group 1, based in Camp Pendleton, Calif., which is specifically overseeing the off load.

Last year, the distribution method was less organized and more "from the ship," he said.

"In time of war, it's going to be a little bit more hectic," Malinowski said.

The arduous process of tracking the hundreds of vehicles and boxes is made easier using bar-code scanners. Bar codes appear on each piece of gear, and every time gear is

moved - from the ship to the pier, from the pier to an assembly area, and so on - it is scanned, said Gunnery Sgt. Gregory M. Clemenson, 37, BSSG-1 watch chief and Johnstown, Pa., native.

This off load began on Feb. 8 after the arrival of the first of several Maritime Prepositioning Force ships, Marines and sailors will continue unloading until all the required gear is in country.

In addition to coming from MPF ships, gear is also set to arrive from military and commercially contracted ships and aircraft. The MPF however, sails with a stockpile of equipment for forward-deployed Marines, lessening the time it takes to get suited up for operations.

The equipment might look familiar seeing how much of it is the same that was used during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Surprisingly, we've had less maintenance issues that we would have expected," said Malinowski.

This may be in part because crews of Marines who have arrived on the incoming MPF ships with the gear, are checking and repairing what they can while still at sea. The Marines, mostly from Camp Pendleton, use on-board tools and parts, said Staff Sgt. Hector Ayala Hernandez, a 29-year-old Chicago native, who traveled from Pendleton to meet up with one ship in the Indian Ocean.

For any equipment still damaged after being taken off the ship, BSSG-1 also has mechanics who can make repairs on the spot.



STAFF SGT. BILL LISBON

Marines from 1st Force Service Support Group, based at Camp Pendleton, Calif., direct a military vehicle off a Maritime Prepositioning Force ship at a port in Kuwait.

At the group's command center, Marines carefully track each ship's off load.

"It's very detailed for one ship or one aircraft, even more so when we have several ships or several aircraft on top of one another," Malinowski said.

After debarking, Marine drivers deliver the gear to the staging areas for each of the major commands involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom—I Marine Expeditionary Force, 1st Marine Division, 1st Force Service Support Group and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

They then distribute equipment

and gear down to their subordinate units.

The gear will be staged at assembly areas in western Kuwait until I MEF's main forces arrive later this spring.

In addition to the landing support staff, hundreds of drivers from a myriad of units, both active duty and reserve, are attached to BSSG-1. A company from 2nd Military Police Battalion in Camp Lejeune, N.C., provides convoy security.

After completion, two-thirds of the personnel are expected to move to Iraq, while the other Marines will be returning to the United States.

Approximately 25,000 Marines and sailors will be deployed to Iraq and Kuwait by this spring, with the 1st FSSG making up nearly a fifth of the force.

Many of the returning Marines have only been home from Iraq a few months.

Although the deployment is being dubbed by some as "Operation Iraqi Freedom 2," it is a continuance of the Phase IV operations of the original OIF, and the Marines' primary mission will be to conduct stability and security operations so that the fledgling Iraqi democracy can thrive.

MCLB ALBANY SAFETYGRAM

Severe Weather Awareness Week

Governor Sonny Perdue proclaimed the week of February 22-28, 2004, as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Georgia. Encouraging Georgians to practice emergency preparedness and response procedures for severe weather events is the goal of the Severe Weather Awareness Week observance.



Tornadoes, floods and thunderstorms are, historically, the major forms of severe weather encountered here in the Albany area.

The base has an emergency alert siren and speaker system. Learn the alert system for your community.

Meet with your family to create a plan. Pick two meeting places, one near home and one

further away in case you can't get home. Establish an "out of town phone contact" in case the family gets separated. Discuss what to do if you are instructed to evacuate.

Implement your plan. Post phone numbers. Make sure everyone has the "contact" number. Learn how and when to shut off gas, water, and electricity. Put together a Disaster Kit, with water, food, clothing, important papers, emergency tools, first aid kit, and any special needs. Keep enough supplies in your home to meet your needs for three days. (1 gallon of water per person per day, food that won't spoil.)

Practice your plan. Conduct drills. Rotate stored food and water.

For more information, contact: Georgia Emergency Management Agency



Risk Management Office 639-5249

